

MS. 154/3/PW/117

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Psychological Warfare Division

SECRET

24 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Interrogation of P/W KARBINSKY

TO : Chief Intelligence, A.L.D. Supreme Headquarters, A.L.F. Main

P/W Karbinsky (Uffz), was captured on March 6th and interrogated on March 15th.

PERSONAL HISTORY: P/W is 23 years old, was born in Koenigsberg, East Prussia, is married; his wife lives at the moment in Rastenburg, E.P. Shortly before capture P/W received a telegram from his wife that she could not be evacuated any more and she is now in Russian occupied territory. The parents of P/W are living in Rheinhausen near Duisburg. This town has been captured by the Americans. His parents refused to be evacuated. The father is a "Glasermeister" (master glazier). P/W finished elementary school and then became an apprentice at the Krupp works at Rheinhausen. Because of the good work he was doing then, he was able to attend a special school for technicians and passed the technical examination shortly before he was drafted into the army. In 1934 P/W joined the HJ. He soon became very much opposed to its strict control over his private life and claims to have joined the Edelweisspiraten. In 1938, during a fight with a large group of HJ, he was allegedly wounded, picked up by the police and as a consequence thrown out of the HJ. Until February '41 when P/W was drafted into the army he remained a member of the Edelweisspiraten. "Ich wollte ein freier Mensch sein" (I wish to be a free man). After his basic training P/W joined the crack-regiment "GROSSDEUTSCHLAND" and fought with them in Russia until 1942. During this period he was wounded 4 times and decorated with the E.K. 1 & 2 (Iron Cross class 1 & 2) and other medals. In consequence of the last wound received, he had to be hospitalized in Germany and after recovery became an Instructor in Kottbus where he remained until February 1944. He was then ordered to proceed to the Führer's H.Q. as reinforcement for the Führer's Begleitbattalion (Escort Battalion). P/W states that the reinforcements for the Führer's escort battalion were not volunteers, but as a rule soldiers of the Division "Grossdeutschland", who, having proved themselves in battle and been decorated, were ordered to the F.H.Q. P/W further states that to the best of his knowledge no further check was made to see if the soldier had been engaged in anti-Nazi activities. Evidently his record, if it had ever come to hand at all, was not considered anti-Nazi. P/W was stationed at Hitler's H.Q. until November 27th, at which date a detachment of the "Leibstandarte" Adolf Hitler took over the job of guarding the F.H.Q. The escort battalion (since August, 1944 changed from battalion to brigade) consisted of the 5th Btn. of the Grenadier-regiment "Grossdeutschland" and was sent as a Kampfgruppe (battle group) to the West under command of Oberst Max MEYER. It was officially designated "Kampfgruppe 'Remer'". On January 10th, 1945, P/W was wounded near Bastogne. On March 6th, he was an outpatient at the military hospital of his home town Rheinhausen. A few days before capture, he had received orders to proceed to the hospital at Paderborn. P/W did not comply with these orders, but hid at his parents' house in order to await the approaching American troops, upon whose arrival he immediately reported to them.

P/W gives the following report on what he has seen and heard from February 1944 to November 1944 at the Führer's H.Q.

A) LOCATION AND OUTLAY OF THE F.H.Q.

The F.H.Q. was located on the Railroad from Rastenburg to Angerburg. A small railroad station known as Bahnhof Goerlitz lies within the territory of the F.H.Q. The entire area is surrounded by a Flandernzaun (wooden cattle fence). This area is known as "Sicherungsbereich" (the Security Area). Within it are the following subsections: Sperrkreis 2 (blockade area 2), this area being surrounded by a high wire-netting. There are no guards at the entrance of blockade area 2. Within it lie the offices of the Commandant of the

F.H.Q., the Commander of the F.L.E., the hospital and the Sauna (Finnish steam bath). Another subsection in the security area, also surrounded with high wire-netting is Blockade area 1. In this area is the Wehrmachtsführungsstab (H.Q. of the High Command of the Wehrmacht) the "persönliche Adjutantur des Führers" (personal adjutancy to the Führer), quarters for the female personnel of the F.H.Q., a Teehaus (tea house), the quarters of the officers of the S.D. (Sicherheitsdienst) (security service of Gestapo), the bunkers of Keitel and Goering. The third subsection of the security area is blockade area A. Here is located the Führerbunker ("Führer's shelter"), the "Besprechungsbunker" (conference shelter), a reinforced house where the officers of the S.D. who are guarding various installations within blockade area A are living. About 8 km. from the F.H.Q. is an airport with a road leading directly to it. Most of the bunkers and office buildings are either bomb-proof or at least reinforced concrete houses.

B) GUARD SYSTEM

The following system of passes exists for the various blockade areas the members of the guarding personnel etc. have a Personalausweis (personal identification card). This pass is good for the period of 6 months. At the backside there are 6 blank spaces. Every month one of these spaces is stamped. The stamps are put at random on anyone of the blank spaces, but the same space is stamped for each period. These personal passes are good for the security area and blockade area 2. Another pass is a Tagesschein (day pass) for the security area. This is given to visitors who have business in this area. It is a slip of paper with a green line running diagonally across it and a big letter S. This paper is given out by the NCO in charge, (Wachhabende) of any of the three entrances of the security area, known as Wache Ost, Wache West and Wache Süd (East, West and South guards). The following procedure is used: the visitor states which office he wishes to visit and the NCO calls the office to verify whether the visitor is expected on business. On receiving this confirmation the guard will sign the pass with his name, also putting down the name of the visitor and the name of the person or office he is visiting. This type of pass is only good until 24.00 hours and must be returned by this time to anyone of the above-mentioned guardposts. If it is necessary for a visitor to stay overnight, he must go to the guardpost at which he entered and have his pass renewed. This is done only after the guard has verified the correctness of the request.

A visitor wanting to visit an office or person within blockade area 2 must get a special pass for this area. This pass is printed on brown paper, has a brown line running diagonally across the front, and a large arabic 2. This pass is obtained from the same guardpost as is the pass for the security area and by the same procedure, the only difference being, that this pass is good for the security area and blockade area 2. It is subject to the same regulations as is the pass for the security area; (renewal etc.). It is to be noted that at the gate of blockade area 2 there is no guard to examine the papers.

To enter into blockade area 1, a visitor has to get a pass printed on blue paper with a large arabic 1 on it. It is obtained in the same way as the other passes by the same guardpost, excepting that at the entrance of blockade area 1, there is a guard who examines the papers. All personnel living and working in blockade area 1 have a small permanent pass with a photo.

If a visitor requests entrance into blockade area A the following procedure is applied: the guard will call the H.Q. of the High Command of the Wehrmacht to see if the visitor has an appointment with Hitler. If this information is obtained, the visitor will get a regular day pass, the same as those issued for other areas, only showing a big A on the front of it. If the visitor knows how to get to blockade area A, he is permitted to drive or go alone. If he does not know the way, one of the soldiers of the guardhouse will be assigned to guide him. Those of the personnel living within blockade area A, i.e. mainly officers of the S.D. on guard inside this area, and the Sergeant in charge of Hitler's dog have a permanent pass, similar to the one of

blockade area 1, also with a photo.

Well-known personalities arriving at Hitler's H.Q. are not subject to any pass control. If, e.g. Goebbels arrives at F.H.Q., he passes all gates including the entrance of blockade area 1 without being questioned or asked to show any papers. P/W states that as a rule the guardpost has been advised previously by the H.Q. of the High Command of the Wehrmacht to expect the arrival of this or that person.

C) ORDERS OF THE GUARDS

The guards are furnished by the Führer's escort battalion. They patrol within the F.H.Q. area and man guardposts at the entrances from the security area into blockade areas 1 and 4. If the officers (Disciplinarvorgesetzter) come within 3 yards, the guard will come to attention, face the officer and make a report: "Streife so und so" (detail so and so); "Wachhabender Leutnant oder Feldwebel so und so" (guard-commander Lieutenant or Sgt. so and so). Immediately after this report the guard will turn round towards his "Beobachtungsfeld" (field of observation). If the officer goes off to the right, the guard will go off to the left, and vice versa. If the officer wants to check the guard, he would generally ask "Was ist Ihr Auftrag?" (what are your instructions?) and the typical answer would be: "Streifengrenze links, der auffallende Baum, Streifengrenze rechts, das Tor" (detail boundary to the left, the fallen tree, detail boundary to the right, the gate). Auftrag: Sicherung und Beobachtung des Geländes nach allen Seiten, Verhindern des Eindringens Unbefugter, Kontrolle aller Unbekannten" (Instructions: security and observation of the area from all sides, preventing the entrance of unauthorised persons, control of all unknown persons). Stationary guards at the gates have a form of report (Kurzmeldung): "Der Auftrag ist die Überwachung des Personen und Fahrzeugverkehrs zu und von der Anlage" (Instructions are to watch the personnel and traffic passing in and out of the area). The guardposts at the East, South and West gates have a Sergeant in charge. An officer is in charge of the guardpost at the entrance to blockade area 1 and the patrols within blockade area 4 are junior NCOs (Unteroffiziere). At night there is a password and since fall the system of the double password has been introduced. One tour of duty lasts 24 hours with three hours on duty and three hours off. The day they are not on guard duty, the soldiers have regular Coy. duty. There were no days off, except when a Sunday coincided with a Coy. duty day.

D) TROOPS STATIONED WITHIN OR IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF F.H.Q.

Until November, 27th, the F.H.Q. was guarded by the Führer's escort battalion, which represented the reinforced battalion of the Grenadier regiment "Grossdeutschland". This regiment became a division and as such has been on the Eastern Front. The F.H.Q. was commanded by Ritterkreuzträger Freiherr v. Werthern (decorated with the Ritterkreuz), (in the meantime promoted to Major). In August Werthern was relieved by Major Fabian decorated with the Eichenlaub (oak leaf) to the Ritterkreuz. According to P/W, Werthern was sent with a battle group to the Eastern Front under a "Sonderauftrag des Führer" (special order from the Führer). Another outfit at the F.H.Q. was the 11th Sturmpanzer Coy. This Coy. is commonly known as the "Rebellen Coy" something like the U.S. Rangers, they have F.J. equipment (Fallschirmjäger). Everyone of this Coy. has to be able to fly a Storch, drive all vehicles including tanks. Every morning they have to run 6,000 m. with full field equipment, they have to jump from a 8 m. high tower and have other hard exercises. Beside their ordinary equipment they are equipped with many special weapons like knuckle /and what one would expect a well-equipped gangster to have. This detachment was later on sent together with the F.H.Q. as members of battle group Remer to the Western Front.

There are also a number of guns mounted on tank-chassis (Sturmgeschütze). One of these was assigned to bring Hitler to the airport, in case of an attack by airborne troops.

Around the area of the F.H.Q. is the Führer-Flakabteilung (Führer's anti-aircraft defence) consisting of 14 88 mm. batteries which are stationed

around the F.H.Q. in a 20 km circle. There is a detachment of the Reichs S.D. (about 1 Company strength) and a small Gestapo detachment (not more than 10 men). In addition to their duties within the F.Q. they also keep an eye on the railtraffic in and around Rastenburg. The Fuehrer bunker and the ~~Truppen~~ bunker are guarded day and night by officers of the S.D.

E) PERSONALITIES

The Commandant of the F.H.Q. was Oberst (now General-Major) Max REMER. He arrived in August upon Hitler's request. He had become well-known during the events of July 20th, when he was the Commander of the Wachbattalion Berlin. Remer relieved Oberst Stroebe. P/W had known Remer, when he was in Russia, commanding the 4th Btn of Rgt. Grossdeutschland. (September 1942). P/W calls Remer "Ein Soldat bis auf die Knochen" (A soldier to the very bones!). He is approximately 32 years old. He impresses you as being excited, generally stuttering, and was always to be found in the very front lines. On the 5th January he was wounded near Bastogne. Prior to this date and during the Rundstedt offensive he was called to Hitler's H.Q. He returned very confident and is quoted of having said that the Fuehrer was sure of success. Remer's best friend was Major MICKLAY (26 years old, "150% Nazi", an old HJ Kaempfer). Micklay was killed in the December offensive.

P/W's CO was First Lieutenant Graf v. Schwerin, Coy Co of the 4th Coy of the Fuehrer's Escort Battalion. He was approximately 24 years old, "100% Nazi", very much liked by his men, according to P/W they would have gone to hell and highwater for him. Schwerin was transferred in October and returned to the Division at the Russian Front. It is assumed among the soldiers of his Coy that the reason for this was his habit of demanding improvement in the conditions under which his men had to live at the F.H.Q. This brought him into difficulties with Hauptmann Pieper, the Adjutant of the Fuehrer's Escort Battalion and resulted in his transfer, because according to P/W, Pieper did not wish to be bothered with requests.

First Lieutenant JAENNEKE commanded the Fuehrerpionierzug. Jaenneke was also transferred when his father who commanded the retreat from the Crimea failed in his mission.

Other non-military personnel frequently at the F.H.Q. were workers of the Organisation Todt. They were engaged in building bunkers and other installations. They came every day by special train from Rastenburg where they were quartered and where they returned the same evening. It is interesting to note, that as recently as the month of October they started building a special new bunker for Hitler. With regard to the workers of the Organisation Todt, P/W states, that he was often able to overhear anti-Nazi remarks they made in the train, which he used very frequently, as his wife lived in Rastenburg. According to P/W some of these workers belonged to Volksliste 2 and possibly 3. They complained about the fact that their leaders had an abundance of tobacco and liquor, whilst they had hardly anything of the kind. It was commonly expected that the O.T. leaders kept the rations meant for the men, for themselves. These O.T. workers entered the F.H.Q. with a pass which was made up on the ordinary Tagesausweis (day-pass form), but was made good for a longer period.

F) HITLER

During the time P/W was stationed at F.H.Q. i.e. February to November 1944, he had frequently the opportunity of seeing Hitler at close range. This was mostly the case when he was on patrol duty within Sperrkreis 4 (Blockade Area). P/W describes Hitler as walking around like an old man, his hair being more grey than black. He generally dresses in long, black trousers, over which he wears boots and a grey tunic and a grey visor-cap. When the weather is bad, he wears a black cape over his uniform. As decorations he wears the Iron Cross Class 1 and the Golden Party Badge. His daily routine is as follows: He often gets up

at 9 o'clock in the morning (this was observed during the summer), then he feeds his dog, a large Alsatian she-dog called Blondie. He then goes back into his bunker where at approximately 7 or 7/30 Fieldmarshall Keitel comes to see him. At 11/15 a food-car brings his noonmeal from the kitchen. A few minutes after that, Prof. Dr. Morell, his personal doctor arrives at the Fuehrer's bunker to eat with Hitler. According to P/W this is a daily occurrence. It is believed to be a fact, that the food he eats is previously tested for poison by Dr. Morell. Around 12 o'clock Hitler takes a walk with his dog, which generally lasts 25 - 30 minutes. Not even bad weather keeps Hitler inside. As a rule he walks within the limits of Blockade Area A, but sometimes walks to Blockade Area 1, where a kind of obstacle-course has been built for the dog. Around 12/45 Hitler receives the assembled officers of the General Staff and invited officers in front of his bunker and goes with them to the nearby Conference bunker, where every day at 1 o'clock there is a "Lagebesprechung" (Situation Conference). This conference usually lasts between one to three hours. Between 6 and 7 in the evening, Hitler takes another walk, of about 30 minutes, generally within Blockade Area A. On his walks he is followed inconspicuously by members of the S.D. At night, or in the early hours of the morning when Hitler is not able to sleep he has all his military advisors awakened and has them called in to the Conference bunker for a conference. P/W maintains that Hitler has in his head the location of all his divisions, that he very often orders divisional Commanders to report to his H.Q. to make a report to him and receive orders. P/W states that at no time has either he or any of his comrades heard anybody save Hitler raise his voice at a meeting, though Hitler would shout out in rage.

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On three occasions P/W himself witnessed Hitler losing/temper.
 i) Either in July or early August, when Hitler was within 5 yards from P/W he threw a piece of sugar in the air, expecting his dog to catch it. When the dog failed to do so, Hitler's face turned dead white and he said to the dog: "Blondie, du bist ein ganz dummes Schwein" (Blondie, you are a thoroughly stupid swine). P/W states, that Hitler appeared so tense and excited, that he was afraid he would break into hysterics. He threw up another piece of sugar which the dog caught, whereupon Hitler quietened down.
 ii) Another opportunity occurred in front of the Fuehrer's bunker, after Keitel had reported/the officers of the General Staff were present for the 13-00 hours conference. P/W then heard Hitler, in very/commanding voice, cut short two generals who had been talking to each other. "Meine Herren, wenn ich spreche, haben Sie Pause" (Gentlemen, when I am speaking, keep quiet).
 iii) Another time, as P/W was on patrol, late at night during the month of September, within blockade area A, he heard Hitler holler at a conference of his Staff officers, and he was able to hear fractions of what Hitler said: "V-1 muss die Luftwaffe ersetzen" (V-1 must make amends for the Luftwaffe). And a little later he heard him say: "Kluge hat die Lage im Westen geschickt an den Nagel gehaengt" (Kluge has the situation in the West hanging by a hair).

Hitler's only constant companion, is a large Alsatian she-dog, Blondie. The attendant of this dog is a Sergeant, who has no other duty but to take care of the dog. Hitler feeds the dog himself. It is the Sergeant's duty to brush the dog's teeth every morning and also bathe her in Persil. P/W calls Hitler's attachment to the dog "krankhaft" (pathological). Hitler addresses himself as Chief and P/W overheard him on various occasions calling: "Blondie, komm zum Chef" (Blondie, come to the Chief).

Hitler's kitchen: Hitler's food is prepared in a special kitchen, which is run by Freifrau v. Exner, who is officially known as Diätköchin des Fuhrers (the Fuehrer's diet-cook). (30-32 years old). Her assistant is SA Sturmbannführer Vater. There are two other assistants for the dirty work in the kitchen. Hitler's typical breakfast consists of a couple of slices of white bread, tea, an apple and plenty of butter. At lunch he often eats an "Eintopfgericht" (one-dish meal). He eats no meat, nor does he smoke, or drink alcohol.

Hitler's Health: On two occasions P/W saw Dr. Morell give Hitler an injection into the right forearm. Once, on the 20th of July, before Hitler left to fetch Mussolini from the station, and another time during the summer after he had returned from the Berghof. The car stopped on the open road within the F.H.Q., Dr. Morell went around and gave Hitler an injection in his right forearm. Another time, also during this summer, the car stopped in the area of the F.H.Q. and Dr. Morell, who calls Hitler "Du", (P/W states, that besides Dr. Morell only SEPP DIETRICH is on "Du" terms with the Führer) said: "Komm her, Adolf", (Come, Adolf) and dropped some liquid into the Führer's nose. This happened at the beginning of July and in front of the guard to blockade area 1. Hitler stayed within his bunker for approximately three weeks at the end of August, and it was rumoured among the soldiers of the F.H.Q. that he was ill. P/W is unable to give any information as to the type of disease it could have been.

Hitler and Women: P/W states that the soldiers were quite curious about his relations towards women, but were unable to find any clue. During the 6 months that P/W was at the F.H.Q., the only woman who visited Hitler was Ilse Werner, an actress and singer from Berlin. P/W himself observed, how Hitler one day, whilst taking a walk, met Oberst Below who was standing in the road, talking with 2 ladies. P/W observed Hitler walking over, shaking hands with Below, but completely ignoring the two ladies. He left, without having paid any attention to them.

G) PERSONALITIES AT HITLER'S H.Q.

KEITEL: According to P/W Hitler's closest advisor on military affairs is Fieldmarshall Keitel. Hitler sees him at various times of the day. P/W describes Keitel as a quiet, reserved person; he has his own bunker, known as "Keitelbunker", in blockade area 1. It is there, that the Wehrmachtsberichte (Wehrmacht's orders) are written up. Keitel often works until the early hours of the morning. On the evening of the 20th July, while P/W was on patrol, passing Keitel's bunker, he overheard the following telephone conversation: (the window was open). Keitel seemed to be speaking with a German officer in Paris. He recalls some fractions of the conversation. Keitel told the party in Paris that General Fromm had given orders to the Fallschirmjägerdivision, stationed near the F.H.Q. to attack immediately the F.H.Q. and destroy everything and kill everybody, because Hitler had just been killed. He further told the party in Paris, that they should take no orders, but from Hitler, Himmler or himself. P/W states that Keitel is generally liked by the soldiers, specially because of the jovial manner with which he treats them.

GOERING: Goering's H.Q. were located in the "Mauerwald" not far from Hitler's H.Q. with a railroad connecting both. P/W noticed during the last months that Goering did not come to the F.H.Q. as frequently or regularly as he used to. According to rumours among the soldiers relations between Hitler and Goering are not as cordial as they used to be. P/W thinks that he observed a certain disrespectfulness and laxness of attitude on Goering's part when he talks to Hitler. He generally stands leaning on his Marshallstab (Marshall's staff) whilst all the other officers talking to Hitler stand at attention. Goering himself is often the subject of jokes and laughter among the soldiers. P/W states that one could smell his perfume from 10 yards. He overdresses at all times, wears an abundance of decorations and jewellery. P/W describes an amber ring which Goering wears, which covers the entire length of his finger. Shortly before P/W left the F.H.Q., he was told by friends, who worked at Goering's H.Q. in the Mauerwald that Goering was walking on 2 sticks. There is supposed to be an unusually large number of female secretaries at Goering's H.Q. which is the basis of much gossip among the soldiers.

HIMMLER: Himmler is generally disliked by the soldiers. At one time when P/W was on duty at the gate, he failed to recognize Himmler's car, and stopped it to examine the papers of the passengers; whereupon Himmler very angrily threatened to have P/W punished for not recognizing him and stopping his car. On the 20th of July P/W overheard Himmler say to Goering: "Wenn es nach mir ginge, würden Frauen und Kinder aller Beteiligten (of the Putsch) ausgemerzt" (if it had been directed against me, all the participants (of the Putsch) would have been exterminated). Himmler's body guard is an SS officer.

who is at all times close to him. This officer carries a revolver, the holster unbuttoned. According to P/W, Himmler gave an order, immediately after his arrival at the F.H.Q. after the putsch, that the Nazi salute should replace the old army salute.

FEGELEIN: SS Obergruppenführer Fegelein, is one of the few SS officers permanently at the F.H.Q. P/W does not know what Fegelein's job is, but declares that he is constantly drunk and generally to be found at the tea house. Fegelein is very arrogant in his dealing with the "Mannschaft" (men).

OBERST BELOW: He is Hitler's Adjutant of the Luftwaffe, a good friend of Keitel. P/W describes him as a quiet and friendly man.

GENERAL HAUSER: P/W does not know whether General Hauser, who is usually present at the 13.00 hour conference, is actually a member of the F.H.Q., because he travels constantly between the H.Q. and Goering's H.Q.

MITARBEITER BERGER: P/W does not know very much about the activities of Mitarbeiter Berger who was killed July 20th. He belonged to the F.H.Q. He was an elderly man, wearing the grey uniform, similar to the one worn by German Diplomatic personnel.

DIPLOMINGENIEUR VOLKNER: This O.T. engineer is in charge of all constructions and building activities at the F.H.Q. He used to be employed by Krupp.

H) RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN F.B.B. AND SS

It was due to the influence of General Schmudt that the guard-troops of the F.H.Q. were furnished by the Wehrmacht. General Schmudt died early in November of wounds received on July 20th.. Two days after his death, a Coy. of SS troops (Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler) arrived at the H.Q. The SS personnel was attached to the F.B.B. so that they could be shown the routine duties of the guard troops. It was typical that when the troops had to move out of their quarters to make room for the newly arrived SS, an officer ordered them to remove everything useable from the barracks, so that the SS could not take advantage of it. As an example of how eagerly this order was carried out P/W claimed that troops of the F.B.B. actually filled up a fish pond (used for gold fish) so that the SS could not enjoy it.

I) WOMEN

There is a number of female secretaries at the F.H.Q. They live in a building in blockade area 1. It is common knowledge among the soldiers that the relations between the officers employing these secretaries are very close, and when speaking of the women's quarters, P/W said: "Wo sie proforma wohnen" (where they officially live). P/W noticed frequently that officers would one evening go out with one girl, and with another the next. There were frequent parties at the tea house or at quarters of some of the officers, where, according to the noise heard by the guards, plenty of liquor was drunk and women were present.

J) EYEWITNESS REPORT OF EVENTS OF JULY 20, 1944

1. On July 20, P/W was on duty as a patrol, within the interior area of Hitler's H.Q. (blockade area A). He was on duty from 11.00 hours until 02.00 hours the following day. P/W gives the following description of the events which took place on July 20, and which he was able to observe at close range.

2. P/W was near the gates to blockade area A when at approximately 12.20 hours Oberst v. Staufenberg arrived. He came by car up to the entrance and after his papers had been examined, entered blockade area A with a member of the S.D. following him and carrying an oversize folio. (The guards had never had instructions to search visitors). P/W at this time did not know the identity of the Colonel but he noticed distinctly that he had one arm missing. At the same time various other high German officers entered the blockade area. This was nothing unusual since at about this time the General Staff Officers and guest officers arrived at blockade area A for the daily Lage Besprechung (briefing of the situation) which was at 13.00 hours.

At approximately 12.40 hours the General Staff Officers and invited officers had assembled in front of the Führer's bunker. At 12.45 hours, as customary, Hitler appeared and received the report of Field Marshall v. Keitel. Hitler and the officers proceeded now from Hitler's bunker to the nearby Besprechung Bunker (briefing shelter) - approximately 13.00 hours. A few minutes after the officers and Hitler had disappeared into this bunker, P/W noticed that Oberst v. Staufenberg came out of the bunker alone. P/W remembers this distinctly and even noticed that the Oberst was smoking a cigarette. Staufenberg walked slowly towards his car which had been parked at the entrance to blocked area A and which had turned in the direction of the airport. By this time, approximately 13.07 to 13.10, while Staufenberg was still on the way to his car, a terrific explosion occurred. P/W now noticed the following things: thick smoke was coming out of the blown-out windows and doors of the briefing bunker. General Jodl came sailing through the air through a window out of the bunker. Staufenberg started running towards his car without being interfered with by anyone. A member of the S.D. stationed near the briefing bunker cried out loudly "Attentat" (Murder!). Simultaneous with the explosion a terrific "Gebrauch" (uproar) came out of the bunker. Admiral Puttammer ran out hollering loudly: his hand or hands had been blown off. Field Marshall v. Keitel ran outside, his uniform torn, his hair tousled. P/W also saw General Hauser, Oberst Behle, and various other officers in shocked condition their clothing torn to bits. At this point, approximately five minutes after the explosion, three ambulances arrived and the wounded and dead who had been dragged out of the bunker were put in. In addition to the three ambulances, a number of other cars were loaded with wounded and driven off immediately. Among the wounded was General Schmudt and among the dead, General Korten and Mitarbeiter Berger. Only now, approximately fifteen minutes after the explosion, Hitler came out of the bunker. P/W describes his condition as follows: he was on his feet but supported on each side by a member of the S.D. His left trouser leg was torn. His hair was tousled. There was a red spot on his face (a burn). His right arm was hanging down limp (thrown out of joint). He and the two supporting officers went immediately to the Führer's bunker. Approximately half an hour later, Hitler came out again. He had put on a new uniform and entered a car which had in the meantime drawn up in front of his bunker. Hitler then drove off, his car accompanied by two others containing S.D. personnel, for the Goerlitzer Bahnhof (Goerlitzer R.R. station) to greet Mussolini who was scheduled to arrive at that time. After Hitler had gotten into his car, P/W saw Dr. Morell give Hitler an injection in the right forearm. There was one member of the S.D. standing on either running board of Hitler's car.

While Hitler was on his way to the station, P/W had a chance to look inside the briefing bunker. He gives the following description: not a piece of furniture remained intact. Splinters, pieces of uniform, maps torn to shreds, were lying all over the room. Personnel of the S.D. and Gestapo and members of the Escort Bn. were at that time eyeing each other with suspicion. No one knew who was responsible for the attempt on Hitler's life. For instance one member of the S.D. approached P/W and asked him in a suspicious voice "Where were you at the time of the explosion?"

Approximately twenty minutes after his departure, Hitler returned from the station. With him in his car was Mussolini. Also in the party were the Japanese Ambassador Oshima (wearing civilian clothes) and members of his and of Mussolini's staffs. Upon arrival Hitler and Mussolini went over to the briefing bunker and took a quick look at the destruction and from there went into the Führer's bunker. At approximately 16.00 hours, Goering appeared at Hitler's R.Q. He had come with his car from his nearby headquarters in the Mauerwald. At approximately the same time, Himmler arrived. They went immediately to the Führer's bunker. P/W did not have the impression that either of them was unduly excited. Around 17.00 hours, Hitler and his guests emerged from the Führer's bunker and went to the tea-house. From this time on things went their usual way. Hitler spoke shortly after midnight from the tea-house to the German people. It was not until the revelations made by Hitler that the P/W or any of his comrades learnt the identity of the plotters. Staufenberg was not suspected by P/W. The first suspicions of the investigating personnel (S.D. and Gestapo) were directed against engineer troops who at that time were building Panzerdeckungslocher

(concealed tank positions) in blockade area A. Further suspicion was cast upon members of the O.T. who were working at the Führer's H.Q.

3. Some time during that day, Hitler talked to one of the other guards within blockade area A saying "Junge, schwein muss man haben, da habe ich mir heute morgen noch eine neue Hose angezogen" (My boy, I have been lucky - that's why I am wearing new trousers this morning). P/W observed that among those who went with Hitler from his bunker to the tea-house at approximately 15.00 was Guleiter Koch who had evidently arrived in the meantime.

4. P/W heard an officer of the S.D. who had been on guard outside the briefing bunker on July 20th say he had seen a large folio, evidently the one brought in by v. Staufenberg. It leaned against the leg of a table in the conference room. P/W gives the following report as to what happened to v. Staufenberg after he ran to his car. This report is based on what he was told by his comrades who were on guard at the various points which Staufenberg passed on his way to the airport. After Staufenberg had run to his car, he drove to Wache Eins. The guard there had seen him come in and therefore did not examine his papers when he left. Evidently no orders had been received there as yet not to let anyone out. From there Staufenberg proceeded to Wache Süd, Flughafenstrasse. At this point the barrier had been lowered. The guard, an UFFZ., did not let the car pass. Sergeant Kobe, the guard, a friend of P/W, came out of the guard room and told Staufenberg, "Der Herr Oberst darf nicht mehr durch" (the Colonel is not permitted to pass any longer). Staufenberg answered, "Ich habe dringenden Befehl vom Führer sofort nach Berlin zu fliegen" (I have an urgent order from the Führer to fly to Berlin immediately). When the Sergeant still refused to let Staufenberg pass, the latter went inside to telephone. He spoke with Hauptmann Pieper, the adjutant of the Commandant of the Führer's H.Q. The answer was "Selbstverständlich dürfen der Herr Oberst durch" (of course the Colonel is allowed to pass). Staufenberg left the guard house in a hurry; he left his gloves and his cap behind and drove to the airport.

K) LIVING CONDITIONS OF GUARDS

The personnel of the F.B.B. was quartered in wooden barracks, called "sauig" (piggeries) by P/W, whilst officers, on the other hand, were luxuriously living either in bomb-proof bunkers or reinforced concrete houses. The guards' barracks gave no protection against bombing and the soldiers were fully aware of this. Indeed, at one time the Commander of the B.B.B., Freiherr v. Werthern told the soldiers quite openly, that in case of an air attack on the F.B.B. most of the "Bewachungsmannschaften" (guard personnel) would probably be killed, but that the only thing that mattered was the life of the Führer. It was not only the living quarters of the soldiers which were completely neglected, but everywhere else the soldiers had to work or spend their time in. Special cause for complaint was given by the very lavish wedding of Hauptmann Pieper, the adjutant to the Commandant of the F.B.B. which took place in October at the Soldatenheim Rastenburg. The soldiers had not received their liquor ration for two months prior to this wedding. Only officers were invited to the ceremony and liquor flowed in abundance; the soldiers then realized where their ration had gone.

L) FEISLER'S SPEECH

At the beginning of November, the President of the Volksgerichtshof (People's Court) addressed approximately 200 officers and NCOs of the F.B.B. personnel in the great hall of the Offizierskasino (officers' quarters). P/W remembers many statements made by Feisler. The title of his address was "Über die Ursachen des Zusammenbruches der Ost und Westfront" (On the causes of the collapse of the East and West fronts).

On the west front Feisler said "Es war uns klar, dass der Amerikaner mit seinem unheimlichen Einsatz von Flugzeugen bei Avranches einen Durchbruch erzielen würde, dass er aber hinterher seine Armeen durchschleusen konnte, das war der Hochverrat von Kluges" (It was clear to us that the Americans with their well-known application of planes would make a break-through near Avranches but that their army was able to pass through afterwards was a result of Kluge's high treason. Noticing the surprised expressions of his audience, he continued:

"Esparen Sie mir bitte, die näheren Einzelheiten zu berichten, sie sind zu grässlich. Die höhere operative Führung der Ost und Westfront hat vollkommen versagt. Das Geschwür des 20. Juli ist noch nicht vollkommen ausgedrückt, aber Sie können davon überzeugt sein, dass in Kürze der Volksgerichtshof auch den Rest aburteilen wird". (Please spare me the reporting of the details, they are too awful. The higher operational command on the East and West fronts failed completely. The "sore" of July 20 has not been completely stamped out, but you can be sure that the rest will also be judged by the People's High Court before long).

As to the Eastern Front, he made the following remarks:

"Seit längerer Zeit wird Verrat an der Front geübt. Z.B. Russische, deutschsprechende Offiziere in Deutscher Uniform sind an Einheitskommandeure herangetreten und haben denen berichtet dass in der und der Richtung noch ein Weg offen sei. Die deutschen Truppen sind dann in einen wohl vorbereiteten Feuerplan der Russen geraten. Im August (?) 1944 lagen bei den Pripiet Sümpfen 3 deutschen Divisionen, 60 russische gegenüber. Fromm, dieser Verräter, hat von diesen 3 Divisionen noch 1 zum Westen abberufen, wo sie nicht nötig war. Mann hatte sich auch gesagt der Russe könne dort im Sommer nicht durchbrechen. Dem Russen ist aber nichts unmöglich und er hat es geschafft und manchmal ganze Divisionen nackt durchgeschleust und die Front bei Minsk aufgerollt". (For an even longer time treason has been practised on the front. For instance, Russian officers (German speaking and in German uniforms) have approached unit commanders and informed them that a path was still open to them in this or that direction. The German troops then fell into a well-prepared Russian fire plan. In August, 1944 three German divisions were in position near the Pripiet Marshes - opposite 60 Russian Divisions. Fromm, the traitor, called one Division away to the west where it wasn't needed. It was also said that the Russians would be able to break through there in the summer. To the Russian nothing is impossible and he accomplished it - and sometimes whole Divisions simply broke through and rolled up the front near Minsk.)

/not

"Zum 20. Juli: Fromm hat für seine staatsfeindlichen Zwecke bewusst fast 1,000.000 in der Heimat gehalten, teilweise sogar Elitetruppen. Fromm hat am 20. Juli nach der Meldung Staufenbergs, Funksprüche an sämtliche Armeeführer erlassen dass der Führer tot sei und es keinen Zweck hätte, weiter zu kämpfen. Sie sollten die Waffen niederlegen". (As to July 20th, Fromm, for his purposes as an enemy of the state had knowingly kept one million men at home - part of them actually elite troops. Fromm on July 20th, according to the Staufenberg report, released a radio announcement to all army commanders to the effect that the Führer was dead and that it was purposeless to fight on - 'you should lay down your arms'.)

He also spoke of three sectors into which the "traitors" were planning to split Germany. One sector was to be under Graf v. Schulenburg, one under Leuchner (an old assistant of Dr. Ley), the third sector was to be under Goerdler. Goerdler had confessed during his trial that he had worked against Hitler since the war began. P/W also recalls Feisler to have said that Dr. Bones had been scheduled to be Kulturminister (! ?).

Feisler also spoke of:

"Starke bolschewistische Unruhen im Donau und Alpengebiet" (strong bolshevist unrest in the Danube and Alps districts).

and that every day the People's Court had to pass judgment on men from these sections.

"Wir dürfen diese Bewegung nicht als geringfügig betrachten" (We can't consider the movement as inconsequential).

Feisler also exalted his audience to fight to the last, taking as example their forefathers, the "alten Germanen" in whose day after all men had been killed, the women would man the Wagenburgen (caravans). P/W was impressed by Feisler as a brutal, unscrupulous fanatic.

M) MISCELLANEOUS DATA OF INTEREST

1) P/W reports, that one day during the month of September, Lt. Coursow, (S.I.G. Zugführer) came all upset into the Unteroffiziersstube, (non-commissioned officers' quarters) saying: "Ist es nicht eine Schande, da sitzen Offiziere des F.H.Q. im Offizierskasino und haben ganz laut den Soldatensender West eingestellt?" (Isn't it a shame - officers of the H.Q. sit in the salon and have quite openly turned on, Soldatensender West?)

2. Under the direction of Oberst Kemmer there were at regular intervals, "Plenspiele" (model exercises). At a large sand table the assembled officers and NCOs would take up problems arising out of a possible attack on the F.H.Q. During the time P/W was at the F.H.Q. bombing as well as airborne attacks were expected at any time. P/W reports that during the summer months a Russian reconnaissance plane would fly over the F.H.Q. daily. It was generally fired upon, but never brought down. P/W speaks about the elaborate camouflage of the F.H.Q. Large stretches of wood would be cut down, trees would be planted on previously empty spaces, plants would be set up on top of the bunkers and houses, then the following month the entire set-up would be changed again, and so on at frequent intervals.

3) On the perimeter of the F.H.Q. 15 cm. guns were set up in concrete positions with range cards made up for any possible point of approach.

4) A courier-train would leave the F.H.Q. daily for Berlin. Every morning the counter train arrived from Berlin. As a rule Dr. Goebbels used this train on his visits to the F.H.Q.

5) P/W knew of the following pre-prepared H.Q. installations to be used in case they had to move out suddenly:- one in Zossen (Silesia), one in Münster (Eiffel) and another one at the Berghof.

6) At the Goerlitzer Bahnhof there were at all times two special trains under steam, one for Hitler and one for Keitel.

P/W was available for this interrogation for a restricted time only and many points remain to be checked. It has been arranged that as soon as the condition of his wounds allow, P/W will be shipped to No. 7 for further detailed interrogation and propaganda purposes.